

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/539,120
Amendment filed December 11, 2008
Reply to OA dated September 17, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3, 7, 8 and 12 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claim 1, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method of forming a coating film on an aluminum substrate, comprising the steps of:

(1) coating an aluminum substrate with a thermosetting polyester resin lustrous powder base coating composition (a) containing a lustrous material, and baking the resulting base coat layer; and

(2) coating the base coat layer with a thermosetting acrylic resin clear powder coating composition (b), and baking the resulting clear coat layer to obtain a lustrous multilayer coating film;

the lustrous powder base coating composition (a) comprising a carboxyl-containing polyester resin as a base resin, and a β -hydroxyalkylamide as a crosslinking agent;

the clear powder coating composition (b) comprising an epoxy-containing acrylic resin as a base resin, and a polycarboxylic acid and/or anhydride thereof as a crosslinking agent;

the ratio of the β -hydroxyalkylamide to the carboxyl-containing polyester resin being such that the number of β -hydroxyalkylamide hydroxyl groups is about 1.2 to about 1.6 per polyester resin carboxyl group; and

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the ratio of the polycarboxylic acid and/or anhydride thereof to the epoxy-containing acrylic resin being such that the total number of carboxyl groups and anhydride groups thereof in the polycarboxylic acid and/or anhydride thereof is about 0.6 to about 0.9 per acrylic resin epoxy group.

Claim 2 (Original): A method of forming a coating film according to claim 1, wherein the lustrous material in the lustrous powder base coating composition (a) is at least one member selected from the group consisting of resin-coated aluminum flakes, colored aluminum flakes, mica, titanium metal flakes, alumina flakes, silica flakes, graphite, stainless steel flakes, platy iron oxide, and micaceous iron oxide.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Original): A method of forming a coating film according to claim 3, wherein the polyester resin is a polyester polycarboxylic acid resin having an acid value of about 10 to about 100 KOH mg/g of resin.

Claim 5 (Original): A method of forming a coating film according to claim 3, wherein the polyester resin is a polyester polycarboxylic acid resin having a weight average molecular weight of about 500 to about 50,000.

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Claim 6 (Original): A method of forming a coating film according to claim 3, wherein the polyester resin is a polyester polycarboxylic acid resin having a softening temperature of about 50°C to about 140°C.

Claims 7-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Original): A method of forming a coating film according to claim 8, wherein the epoxy-containing acrylic resin has an epoxy equivalent of about 200 to about 800.

Claim 10 (Original): A method of forming a coating film according to claim 8, wherein the epoxy-containing acrylic resin has a weight average molecular weight of about 1,000 to about 10,000.

Claim 11 (Original): A method of forming a coating film according to claim 8, wherein the epoxy-containing acrylic resin has a softening temperature of about 50°C to about 140°C.

Claim 12 (Canceled).